

In The Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph/section at the very beginning of the application, prior to the section entitled, "FIELD OF THE INVENTION", at page 1, line 5:

- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/243,775 having a filing date of October 27, 2000.-

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16, with the following paragraph:

-In operation, the meat product is placed within the meat holder 66. The meat holder 66 and the arms 68 are then placed over the first end 50 of the lower portion 46. If desired, the prongs 30 of the pin holder 28 may be inserted through the holes 29, as shown in Figs. 17a and 18, and then into the meat product. The meat product is then driven down through the blades 55, resulting in a meat product having a plurality of cut portions having an equivalent or closely equivalent volumetric shape. Once the food product is sliced as desired, the food or meat holder 66 is then moved upwardly from the second end 52 or toward the first end 50 while gripping an uncut portion of the food. The resultant sliced food product is thereby removed from the lower portion 46 and again through the blades 55.-